

28th July 2021

FOLLOW UP LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Thanks to all who wrote to their MPs earlier this year. It is time to dig a little deeper and find out more information about how the Ministry of Justice's language service delivery has been operating.

Please find below a further letter to be used/adapted by MPs to insist on further specific answers, rather than bland statements of confidence in the language services provision at HMCTS.

Please copy and paste this pro forma and send to your MP, asking them to write to the Ministry of Justice again, ***insisting*** on the specific questions being answered.

Do not hesitate to copy me at mike@nrpsi.org.uk – we are keen to see the response from your MP and the response from the MoJ to your MP.

From: xxxxx

To: xxxxxxx

I understand the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) language service contract for spoken word interpreting has a clearly defined list of tiers which define the nature of the work needed to be fulfilled. These are defined as 'Complex-Written', 'Complex' and 'Standard', where 'Standard' refers to bail hearings, first hearings and case management sessions amongst other tasks, and 'Complex-Written' refers to what are typically Crown Court engagements for spoken word interpreting.

To be more specific, all the details of the types of roles are outlined on pages 90 to 98 of the 'Agreement relating to the Provision of Language Services – Spoken Languages (Lot 1 Redacted 2011116 V2)'.

I am aware that language speakers with low level or no public service interpreting qualifications (those who are allowed on to the 'Standard' qualification tier to handle 'Standard' tasks and those allowed on to the 'Complex' qualification tier to handle 'Complex' tasks) are used by the MoJ for certain types of assignment.

I would, therefore be grateful if you could confirm in the interests of clarity and transparency the number of engagements by each of these three tiers ('Complex-Written' / 'Complex' / 'Standard') for which Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has engaged individuals to conduct spoken word interpreting tasks for the calendar years of 2017, 2018 and 2019, and if possible, for 2020.

This will enable a thorough and transparent review of the nature of work conducted by spoken word interpreters on behalf of HMCTS.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Contact details: